

LITURGY AND SACRED MUSIC

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As there are changes taking place in and affecting the different levels of reality, some phenomenal, others more quiet and gradual, little wonder then that there are changes too in the realm of the Sacred functions and their proper accompanying musical expressions by the people taking part in them. As we now realize the importance of respecting man and his cultural heritage from which he cannot be dissociated without separating him from the realities that held him in his existence, even so Liturgy should respect man in his forms of expression of his longing for and contact with God. Thus it is not without sense, neither just for changes sake, that changes too overflow our Churches. But in the situation we are actually in, we have still to find our way out with these changes and we also actively take part in shaping the future with regard to the search for the proper, desirable and equally appealing and presentable forms of Sacred Music.

The use of vernacular is actually an attempt to secure the proper appealing, and presentable forms of Sacred Music for man in his situation. It is just plain common sense. Vatican II wanted to accommodate this when it says: "The Sanctification of man is manifested by signs perceptible to the sense and is effected in a way which is proper to each of these signs."

Liturgy is a sacred act by which through the rites Christ's sacerdotal act of sanctification and glorification is always exercised and perpetuated in the Church. It is Christ's sacerdotal and personal act that is most essential, sanctifying and glorifying, by proclaiming the reign of the Father through the sacerdotal act of Christ. What is non-essential may be discarded.

Since there is the fact of the variety of forms of perception, even of Sacred signs, it should not be of great surprise that jazz masses are indeed appealing to the young for their vitality and impulsive rhythm but do not quite appeal to the taste of the more advanced in years.

The objection to the use of the jazz music arises not from the fact that it is jazz but from its melody and its taste. Because of this, others would prefer to adopt the real Pilipino music as the more proper form of Church music. There are some, however, who are not of the same opinion. In view of this diversity of opinion, a challenge is posed before composers of liturgical music.

Fr. Isidore Otazu, O.S.B. is of the opinion that liturgical compositions should include elements according to the personal taste of the composer. One may take from some of the richness of Gregorian music for even in some popular Beatle songs, one can detect the influence of Gregorian music. As far as the text is concerned, greater effort to utilize the word of God (Bible) must be made.